

B I L L E S D O N

R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1949.

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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1949

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	49,723
Registrar General's estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	7,798
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,424
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£33,705
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£ 131

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Births - Legitimate	69	63	132
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Total	71	64	135

	<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England & Wales</u>
Birth Rate	17.3	16.7
Death Rate	9.5	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	30	32

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	2	-
Influenza	3	-
Measles	1	-
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	1	-
" " " " " uterus (F)	-	1
Cancer of breast	-	2
Cancer of all other sites	4	6
Carried forward	12	12
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Causes of Death (Continued)	Males.	Females.
Brought forward	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	1
Heart diseases	12	14
Other disorders of circulatory system	2	1
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	2	2
Other respiratory diseases	-	1
Digestive disorders	1	3
Nephritis	-	2
Puerperal sepsis	-	1
Premature birth	3	-
Suicide	1	-
All other causes	3	2
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	39	41
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PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases</u> <u>Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to Hospital</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths</u>
Acute influenzal			
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	9	2	-
Measles	83	-	1
Whooping Cough	17	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Polionyelitis	2	2	-

AGE GROUPS

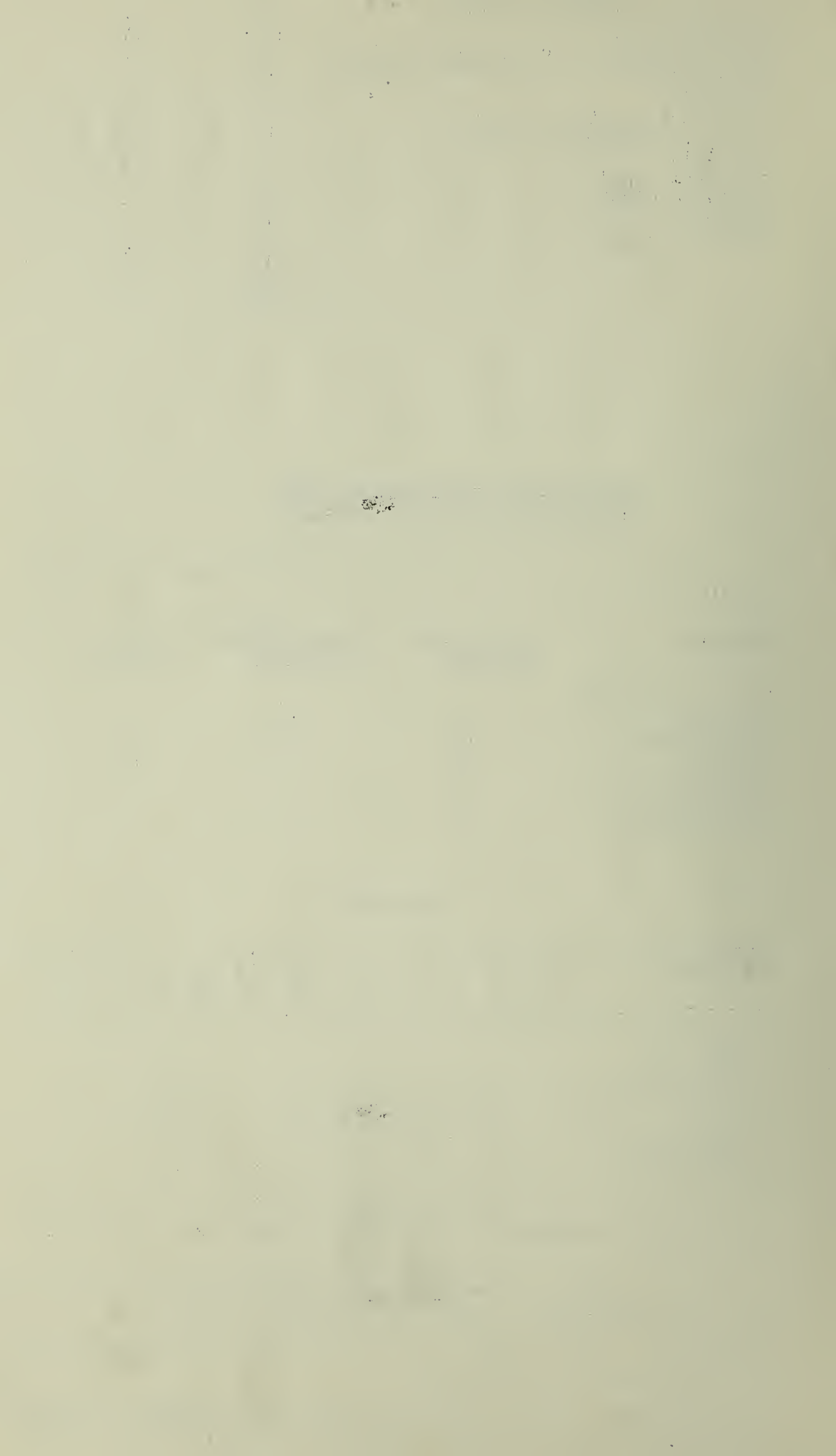
DISEASE	Under 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ 2	$\frac{2}{3}$ 3	$\frac{3}{4}$ 4	$\frac{4}{5}$ 5	$\frac{5}{10}$ 10	$\frac{10}{15}$ 15	$\frac{15}{35}$ 35	$\frac{35}{45}$ 45	$\frac{45}{65}$ 65	65 and over
Acute Inf.											
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	2	3	12	6	11	32	10	6	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	3	2	11	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Polionyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Apart from measles the incidence of infectious disease has been light.

Only nine cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and these were of a very mild type. Seven were treated at home.

Diphtheria. It is worthy of note that there has been no case of diphtheria in the district.

Polionyelitis. During the year there was a widespread epidemic of polionyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) throughout the country, fortunately we had only two cases.



TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1949.

AGE GROUPS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 15	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
45 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In about half of the new cases the disease is known to have been contracted prior to residence in the district. The total number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1949, was 30 as compared with 47 at the end of the previous year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J.Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - A.E. Sweeting, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board. Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Member of the Sanitary Inspector's Association.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole time officer.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following examinations from your area were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory, Leicester :-

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

also, the under-noted examinations were made at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester:-

Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2 Duck eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

3. HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT

Tuberculosis	...	...	Sanatorium & Isolation Hospital, Markfield.
Infectious diseases	...	...	Sanatorium and Isolation Hospital, Markfield. Isolation Hospital, Blaby.

4. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Houghton-on-the-Hill.
Scraptoft.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

During the year, 33 samples of drinking water were taken from wells for bacteriological examination. Only one of these proved to be suitable drinking water whilst the remainder were unsatisfactory. In 15 instances, as a mains supply is available, informal notices have been served on the owners of the property requiring them to provide a piped supply.

With regard to the remaining cases, as there was no alternative supply available, the users were advised to boil the water and in eleven instances the wells were cleansed.

The progress made with regard to schemes for supplying mains water in various parts of the district is as follows:-

Keyham & Skeffington - The provision of a mains supply to each of these parishes has been completed.

Cold Newton & Lowesby - Schemes for these villages have been approved, and it is expected the work will be commenced in the near future.

Water shortage. The only known shortages of water during the year were at outlying farms. The Agricultural Executive Committee and Fire Brigades rendered valuable assistance by carting water to the farms.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water	148
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2. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

The number of known cesspools in the District at the end of 1949 was 536 and during the year some 4000 emptyings were carried out.

Over 100 inspections were made of sewers and outfall dykes. Where the sewers were found to be fractured or choked, immediate repairs were carried out. All outfall ditches receiving effluent were cleansed.

During the year all sewers, tanks and dykes receiving effluent were treated on two occasions to prevent infestation by rats.

The main drainage Schemes for Great Glen and Burton Overy are proceeding satisfactorily and it is anticipated that they will be in operation during the first quarter of 1950.

Houghton - Stoughton - Billesdon. Schemes for these parishes have been prepared and a Ministry of Health Inquiry to consider them is to be held early in the new year.

Keyham - Skeffington and Tilton - The Council's Engineers are working on Schemes for these parishes.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1949:-

Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1189
Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1230

Number of privies converted to water carriage system during the year 17

These figures have been corrected as a result of a survey carried out during the year.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service, which includes all the parishes in the area, is working satisfactorily and very few justifiable complaints were received during the year.

Nightsoil and the contents of cesspools are disposed of on agricultural land whilst household refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including those given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received	...	...	251
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	226

Nature of inspections:

	<u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Re-inspected.</u>
Animal Keeping	2	1
Bakehouses	4	-
Dairies & Cowsheds	55	8
Drainage Works	112	87
Dwelling Houses	357	296
Food premises	7	3
Rats & Mice	8	8
Refuse collection	75	44
Schools	3	-
Shops	11	-
Slaughter Houses & Meat Inspection	-	-
Tents, Vans, sheds	2	27
Verminous premises	2	4
Water supplies	64	20
Workshops, etc.	27	10
Visits re infectious diseases	11	-
Miscellaneous	44	-
	<u>784</u>	<u>508</u>

N O T I C E S

<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st Jan., 1949	2	-
Issued during the year	15	81
Complied with during year	17	65
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1949	-	16
<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding 1st January, 1949	-	-
Issued during year	-	-
Complied with during year	-	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1949	-	-

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	125
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	129
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	One
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	One
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	73

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	}	53
Number rendered fit by Owners		

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Number of Notices served Nil

Note: One house found to be unfit for occupation was voluntarily demolished by the owner.

4. THURNBY CAMP. Owing to the rapid deterioration of several of the huts on this Camp, the Ministry has agreed that these may be pulled down as they become empty. When first occupied there were 45 families on this Camp but the number has now been reduced to 36.

5. INFESTATION.

Two premises were found to be infested with flies during the year and appropriate action was taken. In view of the type of tenant selected for our new Council Houses, preventive treatment is not considered necessary.

6. CAMPING SITES. There are no Camping Sites in the area. The Council did agree however to the issue of licences for the siting and occupation, by agricultural workers, of two caravans.

7. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

We do not condemn houses for the time being owing to the general housing shortage. The result of this policy is an increase in the amount of repair work which is necessary. In the main only urgent and necessary repairs are asked for, and are dealt with informally.

The time must soon come when some of the very old dilapidated property will have to be pulled down.

8. ERECTION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

All Medical Officers of Health are agreed that one of the most important factors influencing the health of the people is the speed at which new houses can be built.

8. ERECTION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY. (Contd.)

98 Post War houses have already been erected by this Council, 20 of these during 1949, and 20 more are at the moment under construction.

Steps are being taken to obtain an additional ten sites in various parts of the district on which to erect further houses.

At the end of 1949 there were 165 applicants on the Council's Housing List, and new applications are being received daily.

It is pleasing to note that the Council are contemplating erecting a few bungalows for aged people.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY.

	<u>Cowkeepers.</u>	<u>Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers.</u>
Number on Register	192	Nil
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	-	-
Number of contraventions found during the year	2	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	2	-
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st December	-	-

4 Biological milk samples were taken during the year, and these were found to be satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS 1936-1946.

No licences were issued under this heading during the year. The bulk of this work is, of course, carried out by the County Council.

Under the new Legislation most of the work in connection with milk production is now carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

ICE CREAM.

Six premises in the Rural District are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 64 tins and other containers of varying types of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

RODENT CONTROL.

All sewers, sewer dykes, sewage tanks and refuse tips in the area were given two treatments during the year. The few complaints with respect to rats on private properties were investigated and where help and advice were needed, this was given.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

